

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE/
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY of DEFENSE ADVANCED SYSTEMS and CONCEPTS
AND**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/
TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION**

Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD), Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Advanced Systems and Concepts (DUSD, AS&C) and the Department of Commerce (DoC), Technology Administration (TA) agree to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purpose of piloting focused, collaborative efforts to support the U.S. warfighter's technology superiority by enhancing and improving productivity of the U.S. manufacturing industrial base, and cooperatively leveraging DoD technologies and the national service delivery network of DoC, thereby more efficiently using U.S. tax dollars to advance the national interest in preeminent defense capabilities.

Background

Consistent with the missions of DoD and the DoC, both organizations seek to accelerate cooperatively the transfer and transition of appropriate technologies to the private and public sector industrial base in order to establish a national rapid response defense manufacturing supply chain to meet urgent defense needs, reduce cost, eliminate shortages, and expand the supplier base for parts and equipment supporting warfighter needs.

The DoD laboratories have developed technologies to support the high-level technology requirements of the U.S. warfighter, which are available for commercial use in the private sector. DoC NIST has the mission of developing strategies for manufacturing R&D programs as determined in the newly established charter of the Interagency Working Group for Manufacturing R&D. DoC also provides program management and access to quick and cost-effective manufacturing assistance centers through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program working directly with smaller manufacturers in the industrial supply chain.

It is recognized that the DoD and the DoC shall rely on their respective resources for any collaborative efforts unless otherwise agreed to within an addendum for a specific project.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Both agencies are interested in piloting efforts to integrate technological knowledge, R&D manufacturing strategy, and access to the industrial supply chain market in support of immediate and ongoing needs of the U.S. warfighter within areas authorized assuming funds are available. Areas of initial technical collaborative interest include, but are not limited to the following several subjects:

DoD's focus to better utilize programs in Advanced Systems & Concepts is to:

1. Establish direct relationships, where feasible between DoD and DoC director and program manager level staff.
2. Identify geographic locations of Defense manufacturers to assess the specific needs of the marketplace as they relate to the urgent defense needs.
3. Identify defense emerging technology needs and related critical manufacturing processes needed domestically for defense production capabilities.
4. Cooperate with DoC in efforts to develop and implement ways to improve the quality and production capacity within the supplier base for vital defense equipment and parts requirements with clear objectives, benchmarks and goals, so that the success of the efforts can be measured.
5. Develop procedures for Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers to tap into the reservoir of DoD talent, Intellectual Property, facilities and equipment.

DoC's focus to better utilize NIST, particularly the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program and the Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory is to:

1. Provide a professional detail assignment to facilitate the collaborative efforts with specific programs/ laboratories such as DoD's Technology Transfer Initiative, Manufacturing Technology, Dual Use Science & Technology, Technology Transfer, etc., and DoC's Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory and Manufacturing Extension Partnership, etc.
2. Support the development and deployment of a set of specific defense performance-based commercial standards for high-tech defense manufacturing processes and supply chain interactions (i.e. UID/RFID, cyber security, Homeland Defense, etc.).
3. Communicate standards and assist with deployment in the most critical areas of the supply chain to insure secure defense supplier base information exchange.
4. Further establish NIST working relationship with various Defense Department Centers of Excellence to enhance technology transfer by incorporating best practices determined by DoD.

Effective Date

This memorandum is effective when signed by both parties, and shall continue for a period of five years unless sooner terminated by either party giving written notice to the other party ninety days in advance of the effective date of termination. The parties can modify this agreement in writing.

Sue C. Payton

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Advanced Systems and Concepts)


Department of Defense

Date:  JUN 3 2004

Phillip J. Bond

Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology

Department of Commerce

Date:  JUN 08 2004